

X: SPANIER, DR JOHN

30 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Eight references to CIA and US intelligence performance in the Korean and Far Eastern situation, between October 1949 and December 1950, appear in a new book by Dr. John W. Spanier of the University of Florida, entitled THE TRUMAN-MACARTHUR CONTROVERSY AND THE KOREAN WAR; published by the Harvard University Press. (Book attached herewith.) The passages are summarized as follows, in chronological order:
 3. In October 1949, one "Colonel McCann of the Central Intelligence Agency" was predicting that Communist China could take over Formosa "without a full-scale invasion" because of low morale of Nationalist troops and the "earnest hatred" of Chiang by the local population (p.54). McCann's remarks are said to have been made at a State Department meeting on China policy in October 1949, later disclosed in certain Hearings on the Institute of Pacific Relations, before the Internal Security Committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, released about 1951-52, and cited by Spanier on pp. 284,298.
 4. The North-Korean attack in June 1950 was a "complete" surprise both to the US Government and to the South Koreans, and the "first" news came from the United Press, as Spanier concludes (pp. 15, 21, 282, 298) from the Senate Hearings in 1951, on President Truman's dismissal of General Mac Arthur. "several months" the US Government had recognized that the Communists had a "capability" for war, from intelligence reports made by State, Defense, CIA, and the Far Eastern Command, "but these agencies had not believed that the North Koreans intended an immediate attack." Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson later